Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018240 ORIGIN OPIC-06

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DRAFTED BY OPIC/GC FXTERN APPROVED BY EB/IFD OIA:RJSMITH ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER(INFO) EB/IFD/OIA:DSTEBBING EA/J:DSMITH

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R 270136Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: OPIC ARBITRATION WITH REVERE

1. ON DECEMBER 20, REVERE COPPER AND BRASS, INC. COMMENCED AN ARBITRATION PROCEEDING AGAINST OPIC, ALLEGING THAT REVERE'S BAUXITE-ALUMINA OPERATION IN JAMAICA HAD BEEN EXPROPRIATED GIVING RISE TO COMPENSABLE DAMAGES UNDER ITS OPIC EXPROPRIATION INSURANCE. IN LARGE PART, REVERE'S CLAIM IS BASED ON THE ASSERTION THAT CERTAIN ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA CHILLED THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR REVERE TO FIND A PARTNER OR CREDITOR TO SUPPLY THE CAPITAL NECESSARY TO EXPAND ITS OPERATION INTO AN ECONOMICALLY VIABLE UNIT. IN PARTICULAR, REVERE NOTES THAT ON MAY 8, 1974 A CONSORTIUM OF JAPANESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPANIES ENTERED INTO A LETTER OF INTENT WITH REVERE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN EXPANSION BUT THEN WITHDREW IN 1975. IN ANALYZING THE CASE, OPIC WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY USEFUL TO SPEAK WITH SOME OF THE JAPANESE COMPANIES INVOLVED TO DETERMINE THEIR REASONS IN WITHDRAWING FROM THE REVERE PROJECT AND THE VARIOUS FACTORS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

- 2. OPIC WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN IDENTI-FYING THE APPROPRIATE JAPANESE COMPANY OFFICIALS AND YOUR ADVICE ON THE BEST WAY TO DISCUSS THE REVERE PROJECT WITH THEM. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR MEMBER OF OPIC STAFF TO TRAVEL TO TOKYO IF YOU RECOMMEND IT, OR OPIC COULD FURNISH YOU WITH BACKGROUND ON THE CASE. AS OPIC IS UNDER SOME TIME PRESSURE BECAUSE OF THE LITIGA-TION, A PROMPT RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
- 3. THE LEADER OF THE CONSORTIUM WAS SUMITOMO CHEMICAL COMPANY. THE OTHER COMPANIES INVOLVED WERE KANEMATSUGOSHO, LTD., KOBE STEEL, LTD., MARNBENI CORP., NIPPON LIGHT METAL CO., SUMITOMO SHOJI KAISHA, LTD. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: OPIC ARBITRATION WITH REVERE TAGS: EINV, JA, REVERE COPPER & BRASS INC

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